

Message Text

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ACTION HUD-01

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DEPT PASS HUD HANCOCK

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, UR, US
SUBJECT: US-USSR HOUSING AGREEMENT: VISIT OF US FIRE
RESISTANT MATERIALS DELEGATION 10.03

1. FIVE MAN US DELEGATION IN FIELD OF FIRE RESISTANT MATERIALS RECENTLY COMPLETED SUCCESSFUL 9 DAY VISIT TO MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD. THE US DELEGATION MET WITH SOVIET BUILDERS CONCERNED WITH FIRE RESISTANT CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND PRACTICES, WITH SOVIET FIREFIGHTERS AND WITH SOVIET SCIENTISTS INVOLVED IN COMBUSTION RESEARCH. THE DELEGATION RECEIVED COPIES OF SOVIET FIRE SAFETY CODES AND FLAMMABLE MATERIALS TESTING PROCEDURES, WHICH US SPECIALISTS STATED COULD BE OF USE TO THEM IN REVISING US CODES AND STANDARDS. (DELEGATION EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN AT FINDING WAY TO TRANSLATE THE LARGE AMOUNT OF SOVIET MATERIAL THEY RECEIVED.) HOWEVER, IN SPITE OF URGING BY US DELEGATION SOVIETS REFUSED TO PROVIDE DATA ON FIRE LOSSES IN USSR ON GROUNDS THAT SUCH MATERIAL IS NOT PUBLISHED.

2. IN MOSCOW US DELEGATION VISITED ALL UNION ACADEMY FOR FIREMEN, WHERE THEY OBTAINED INFORMATION
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WHICH MAY BE USEFUL IN SETTING UP NEW US ACADEMY. DELEGATION WAS TOLD THAT APPROXIMATELY 20-30 PERCENT OF FIREMEN IN MOSCOW ARE DRAFTEES, WHO ARE ASSIGNED TO THIS JOB IN LIEU OF REGULAR MILITARY SERVICE. IN LENINGRAD DELEGATION VISITED SOVIET FIREHOUSE, WHERE THEY WERE SHOWN COMPUTER BASED SYSTEM FOR ASSIGNING FIRE COMPANIES TO REPORTED FIRES.

3. DURING THE VISIT SOVIETS PROPOSED TO THE HEAD OF THE US DELEGATION, ROBERT LEVINE, THAT THE US AND SOVIET ACADEMY OF SCIENCE CONSIDER SIGNING NEW BILATERAL AGREEMENT IN FIELD OF BASIC COMBUSTION RESEARCH. SOVIETS DID NOT INDICATE WHAT SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES THEY DESIRE TO INCLUDE IN THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT, OR WHY THEY WANTED AN AGREEMENT AT ALL. LEVINE NOTED THAT HE HAD NOT AUTHORITY IN SUCH MATTERS BUT PROMISED TO INFORM NAS ABOUT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL. WE HAVE ASKED LEVINE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL DETAILS TO HANCOCK OF HUD AND TO MITCHELL OF NAS.

4. COMMENT: FIRE RESISTANCE MATERIALS EXCHANGE SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN OFF TO A GOOD START. THE FIREMEN AND SPECIALISTS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES EASILY FOUND A COMMON LANGUAGE. DEFINITE ASSESSMENT OF THE EXCHANGE'S VALUE TO US MAY REQUIRE MORE TIME AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THE MATERIALS WHICH THE SOVIETS GAVE THE US DELEGATION. TOON

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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